

Subpart A—PHMSA Rulemaking Documents

§ 106.5 Defined terms used in this subpart.

The following defined terms (see part 105, subpart A, of this subchapter) appear in this subpart: File; Person; State.

§ 106.10 Process for issuing rules.

(a) PHMSA (“we”) uses informal rulemaking procedures under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) to add, amend, or delete regulations. To propose or adopt changes to a regulation, PHMSA may issue one or more of the following documents. We publish the following rulemaking documents in the FEDERAL REGISTER unless we name and personally serve a copy of a rule on every person subject to it:

- (1) An advance notice of proposed rulemaking.
- (2) A notice of proposed rulemaking.
- (3) A final rule.
- (4) An interim final rule.
- (5) A direct final rule.

(b) Each of the rulemaking documents in paragraph (a) of this section generally contains the following information:

- (1) The topic involved in the rulemaking document.
- (2) PHMSA’s legal authority for issuing the rulemaking document.
- (3) How interested persons may participate in the rulemaking proceeding (for example, by filing written comments or making oral presentations).
- (4) Whom to call if you have questions about the rulemaking document.
- (5) The date, time, and place of any public meetings being held to discuss the rulemaking document.
- (6) The docket number and regulation identifier number (RIN) for the rulemaking proceeding.

[67 FR 42954, June 25, 2002, as amended at 70 FR 56088, Sept. 23, 2005]

§ 106.15 Advance notice of proposed rulemaking.

An advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) tells the public that PHMSA is considering an area for rulemaking and requests written comments on the appropriate scope of the rulemaking or on specific topics. An

advance notice of proposed rulemaking may or may not include the text of potential changes to a regulation.

§ 106.20 Notice of proposed rulemaking.

A notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) contains PHMSA’s specific proposed regulatory changes for public comment and contains supporting information. It generally includes proposed regulatory text.

§ 106.25 Revising regulations without first issuing an ANPRM or NPRM.

PHMSA may add, amend, or delete regulations without first issuing an ANPRM or NPRM in the following situations:

(a) We may go directly to a final rule or interim final rule if, for good cause, we find that a notice of proposed rulemaking is impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest. We must place that finding and a brief statement of the reasons for it in the final rule or interim final rule.

(b) We may issue a direct final rule (see § 106.40).

§ 106.30 Final rule.

A final rule sets out new regulatory requirements and their effective date. A final rule will also identify issues raised by commenters in response to the notice of proposed rulemaking and give the agency’s response.

§ 106.35 Interim final rule.

An interim final rule is issued without first issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking and accepting public comments and sets out new regulatory requirements and their effective date. PHMSA may issue an interim final rule if it finds, for good cause, that notice and public procedure are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest. PHMSA will clearly set out this finding in the interim final rule. After receiving and reviewing public comments, as well as any other relevant documents, PHMSA may revise the interim final rule and then issue a final rule.

§ 106.40 Direct final rule.

A direct final rule makes regulatory changes and states that the regulatory